

Maria Browne Unfazed by Opposition Calls to Resign

Page 2



The Minister of Works and Housing has resisted calls from the opposition United Progressive Party to step aside, following the vehicle scandal that enveloped her Ministry.

Works Minister Rejects Opposition Calls for Resignation Over “Vehicle Gate” Scandal

Minister of Works and Housing, Maria Browne, has responded defiantly to calls from the United Progressive Party (UPP) for her resignation over what the opposition has dubbed the “Vehicle Gate” scandal.

Browne, who also serves as the Member of Parliament for Saint John’s Rural East, rejected the accusations as baseless, clarifying the situation and defending her integrity in the face of ongoing political pressure.

The controversy centers around the purchase of 30 government vehicles, which Minister Browne confirmed were made without proper authorization. While the opposition has seized on the issue, framing it as evidence of mismanagement within the Ministry of Works, Minister Maria Browne insists that the matter has been blown out of proportion.

“It’s unfortunate that the opposition has chosen to misrepresent the facts,” Browne stated, speaking to state television in the parliamentary chamber, following yesterday’s presentation of the Speech from the Throne. “The vehicles were purchased without proper authority, and we immediately took corrective action by returning them. That’s the end of it.”

The UPP, however, has linked the vehicle purchases to a broader scandal involving a customs duty-free exemption, which they claim was illegally signed by the former Comptroller of Customs. Members of the opposition have made repeated calls for Browne to step down, suggesting that the alleged missteps are part of a pattern of corruption and



Minister of Works and Housing, Maria Browne

negligence within her ministry.

In response, the Works and Housing Minister was clear in her condemnation of the opposition’s attempts to conflate the two issues. “The duty-free exemption and the vehicle purchases are two entirely separate matters. Yet, the opposition continues to spin this narrative in an effort to damage my reputation,” Browne said.

She also dismissed the opposition’s claims regarding the scale of the issue, which they have described as involving 200 vehicles and \$15 million in lost revenue. Minister Browne called these figures “false” and said there was no truth to them.

“The truth is, no such amount was involved, and no such vehicles were purchased,” she asserted. “What happened was a mistake—vehicles were acquired without the proper approvals, but they were returned. That’s all,” She added.

While the controversy has cast a shadow over the Ministry of Works, the minister emphasized that the incident has prompted an internal review and will lead to more stringent procurement processes

going forward. She stressed that the government was taking immediate steps to prevent similar mistakes in the future.

“We are using this experience as an opportunity to tighten up our procurement procedures and ensure that everything is done in full compliance with the law,” Browne explained. “An audit of government vehicles will be conducted, and we will make sure that vehicles are properly assigned to officers who need them for their official duties, not administrative staff who don’t.”

In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, she said the ministry will also be implementing clear labeling of vehicles, making it easier to track and manage government assets.

Despite the opposition’s efforts to stir controversy, the Saint John’s Rural East MP has received widespread support from her constituents and colleagues. She reiterated her commitment to serving with integrity and delivering results for the people she represents.

“I have always served with honesty and dedication, and I remain focused on my work. The opposition can continue to spread lies, but I stand by the truth,” she said firmly. “I am grateful for the trust and support of my constituents, and I will continue to serve them to the best of my ability.” Minister Browne added, “I have done nothing wrong, and I will not resign over false claims. Anyone seeking answers has every right to request documentation through the Information Commissioner. We have nothing to hide.”

A Quarter Century of Progress: Throne Speech 2026 Outlines Antigua and Barbuda's Economic Successes



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams

The 2026 Speech from the Throne yesterday celebrated Antigua and Barbuda's significant achievements over the past 25 years and gave insight into an ambitious vision for the nation's future.

Under the theme Solid, Stable, Soaring, The Next Quarter Century—Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams celebrated the country's impressive economic growth, pointing out that since the year 2000, Antigua and Barbuda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has more than tripled, increasing from \$802 million to over \$2 billion USD. This surge in economic output represents an extraordinary 300% growth, especially remarkable for a small island nation that has faced repeated natural disasters, a global financial crisis, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is no small feat," Sir Rodney remarked. "It is a testament to the resilience and hard work of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, who have weathered many storms—literally and figuratively."

In addition to this growth, the Governor General pointed to the high living standards enjoyed by the nation's citizens, with an average per capita income exceeding EC\$60,000, which has resulted in the United Nations ranking Antigua and Barbuda 53rd

globally on its Human Development Index (HDI), a distinction that places the nation ahead of every other Caribbean country.

Yesterday's Speech from the Throne placed emphasis on government's mission to transform the sister isle, Barbuda, into "an economic powerhouse". Sir Rodney Williams credited his government with making the bold decision to develop Barbuda into a net contributor to the national treasury, ending decades of economic stagnation. Through significant investments in hospitality and infrastructure, including partnerships with world-renowned brands like Rosewood and Nobu, Barbuda is experiencing a resurgence. The planned construction of a new international airport and seaport will

further elevate the island's economic potential.

"Barbuda is no longer the forgotten island. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when vision and determination meet," Sir Rodney declared to a joint-sitting of Parliament.

The Governor General also praised the government's historic land reform efforts, which granted long-overdue land ownership rights to Barbudans. These reforms have corrected an injustice that had persisted for generations.

Water scarcity has long plagued Antigua and Barbuda, but Sir Rodney's speech marked a turning point in addressing this critical issue. The country's desalination capacity has expanded dramatically, rising from 3.5



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million gallons of fresh water daily in 2014 to over 11 million gallons today. This surge in production has helped alleviate the water shortages that have long hindered the nation's growth.

"Water has always been a challenge for us, but today, we are on the verge of solving it," said Sir Rodney. "With strategic investments in desalination and storage, and the support of international partners, we are securing a sustainable water future."

The government's commitment to water security is also seen in ongoing efforts to improve storage infrastructure and expand distribution systems. This initiative, coupled with partnerships with countries like Cuba and China, is expected to provide long-term solutions to the country's water woes.

Another highlight of Sir Rodney's address was the recent transformation of Antigua and Barbuda's banking sector. The government's decision to buy out foreign banks' assets has resulted in local institutions, including ACB Caribbean and ECAB, assuming full control of these critical financial assets.

"This is a historic moment," Sir Rodney remarked. "For the first time, we are in full control of our financial sector. This move is symbolic of our broader efforts to take charge of our economic destiny."

In a move to democratize wealth creation, the government has also introduced the concept of "empowerment capitalism." Through initiatives such as the sale of shares in government-owned enterprises like the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC), ordinary citizens are now able to participate in wealth-building and share in the profits generated by these assets, another success story that has contributed to the growth and economic development of Antigua and Barbuda.

With an eye on the future, Sir Rodney outlined an ambitious vision for Antigua and Barbuda's next quarter-century. He emphasized that the nation will continue to focus on sustainable economic growth, social equity, and infrastructure development. By 2050, Sir Rodney envisions Antigua and Barbuda as a global leader in clean energy, technology, and tourism.

"We are laying the groundwork for a prosperous future," said Sir Rodney. "Our aim is to ensure that every Antiguan and Barbudan has the opportunity to participate in wealth creation, secure a better future, and contribute to the collective prosperity of our nation."

This vision includes continued investments in renewable energy, technological innovation, and a commitment to ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared across all sectors of society.

As it looks ahead to the next 25 years, government has set its sights on expanding its successes, offering its citizens a future defined by opportunity, sustainability, and prosperity.

"As the first quarter of the 21st Century comes to an end, in a few weeks, my Government expresses best wishes to the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda for the second quarter of the 21st Century. Our island-state, despite setbacks, has experienced a quarter century of growth—solid, stable and soaring!" Sir Rodney Williams asserted.



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PM Browne Promises Concise, Results-Focused Budget Presentation



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Ahead of the upcoming Budget Presentation on 4th December, 2025, Prime Minister Gaston Browne is projecting optimism—both about the country’s economic trajectory and the global environment in which it must operate.

The head of government says his administration remains “eternal optimists,” expressing hope that 2026 will bring greater global calm despite rising uncertainties. He acknowledged the growing risks associated with climate change, particularly the increasing frequency and intensity of storms, but said the government continues to prepare and push for resilience.

“We continue to hope that next year will be a year in which we go unscathed,” Browne said, noting the mounting environmental

pressures facing small island states.

The prime minister revealed that this year’s budget presentation will be relatively brief, lasting no more than 90 minutes. Rather than lengthy announcements, Browne said the address will center on key performance indicators demonstrating his administration’s progress.

“For this budget statement, I have nothing to prove,” he stated. “All I wish to do is outline a few metrics to demonstrate—without contradiction—that we have delivered for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.”

Mr. Browne strongly asserted that Antigua and Barbuda is “a far better place than it was 10 years ago,” crediting his government’s policies for elevating the

nation’s socioeconomic standing.

He expressed confidence that by the end of his current term—within the next three to five years—the country will advance even further, reaching a level of development that will be “extremely noticeable by all.”

The administration’s priorities, he reiterated, remain centered on raising living standards, improving quality of life, and expanding national

development.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called for national unity heading into 2026, urging citizens and stakeholders to remain focused on continued progress.

“What is necessary now,” he said, “is for us to go into 2026 strong and united, to make sure that we continue to raise this country to new heights and ensure Antigua and Barbuda remains one of the most successful small island states globally.”



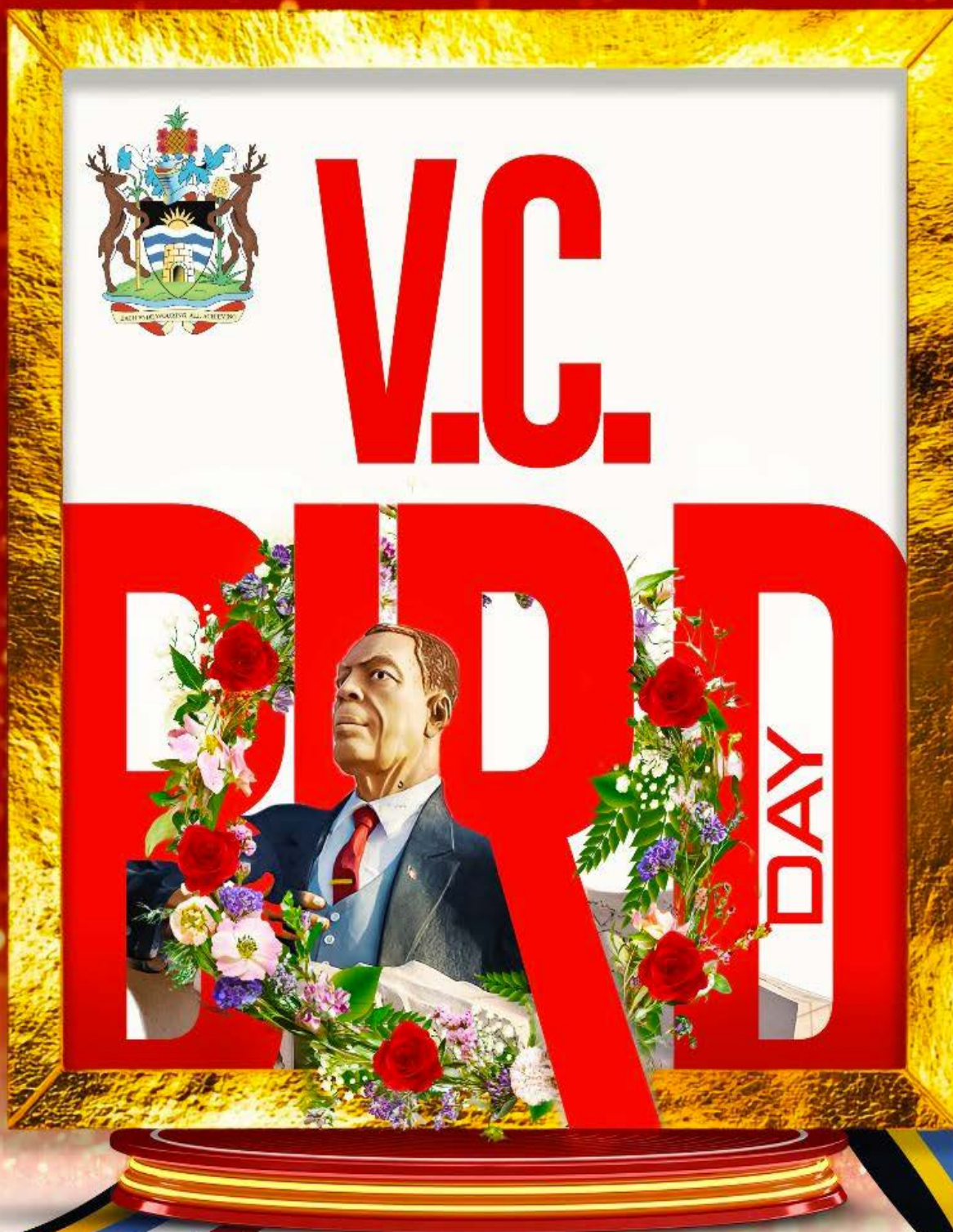
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Government's Advancement of Barbuda Highlighted in Throne Speech

Government has listed the advancement of Barbuda as an example of the Gaston Browne-led administration's determination to make possible what previous administration could not.

In his Speech from the Throne yesterday, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, reflected on the difficulties past governments encountered, while attempting to advance Barbuda's cause. However, he said the current administration of Prime Minister Gaston Browne changed the status quo, placing the sister isle on a path to economic prosperity.

"While the governments preceding the current administration were faced with several challenges that they



deemed too difficult to overcome, my Government, filled with daring and determination, pursued a bold and courageous approach

to changing those circumstances that seemed politically defying," Sir Rodney Williams said, during the opening of the Fourth Session



Local News

of the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Governor General added that despite being placed on a course that would have ensured its viability through tourism, it was not until the current government assumed office that this was realized.

“... after 2014, my Government determined that Barbuda would become a net contributor to the Treasury of Antigua and Barbuda. Several new hospitality projects on Barbuda would eliminate unemployment and under-employment there, within a very short period, and provide the Barbuda Council with millions of dollars in revenues,” Sir Rodney declared. “Never before, in the history of Barbuda and the creation of the Barbuda Council, had this ever occurred. P.L.H. and Rosewood, Louie Hill and Nobu, paved roadways and street lights, a new airport and a planned new seaport will have begun to transform Barbuda into net-contributor status”.

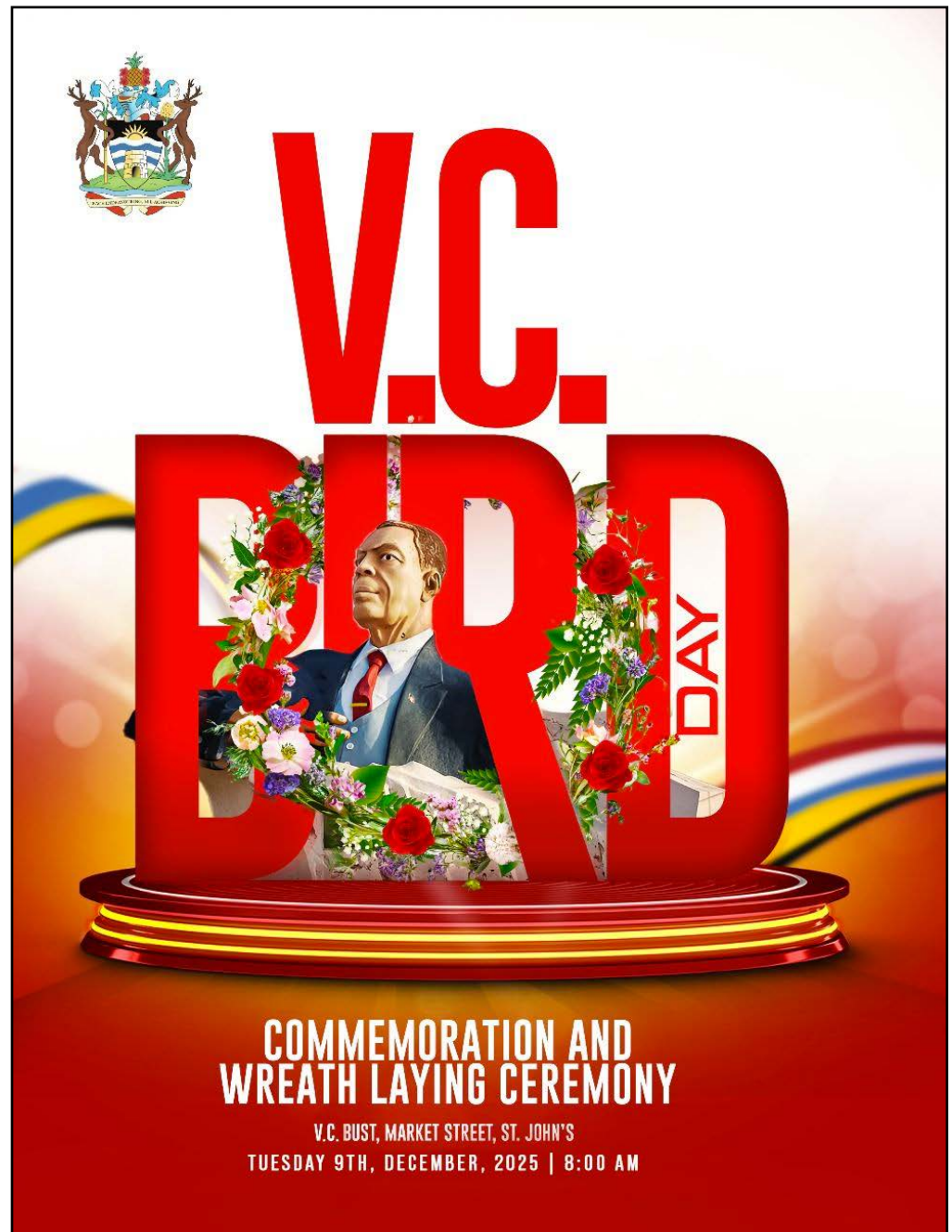
He also highlighted the strides the government has made in empowering Barbudans, making them owners of the land they occupy, through a decision of the government that repealed the 2027 land legislation.

“Despite the many challenges by a small corps of naysayers, the apex court of our country ruled that all land not privately owned in Antigua and Barbuda is the Crown’s. Far from the

folly which assured poverty and under-development for those who chose to live on Barbuda, my Government has brought prosperity and opportunity to those of our citizens and residents who live on the sister isle.”

“A new International Burton-Nibbs Airport, to be followed by a new seaport capable of receiving container ships, new roads, new green energy plants, new freshwater-producing sources,

and new housing stock in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, have begun to make Barbuda shine like a diamond. We-the-people thank our Prime Minister, the former parliamentary representative and the caretaker candidate for pursuing this unrelenting vision of a better Barbuda,” the Governor General outlined.



A commemorative graphic for V.C. Bird Day. It features the text "V.C. BIRD DAY" in large, bold, red letters. The word "BIRD" is the largest and contains a portrait of V.C. Bird, a man in a suit and tie, surrounded by a wreath of red and white flowers. The word "DAY" is smaller and positioned to the right of "BIRD". Above the text is the coat of arms of Antigua and Barbuda. Below the text, it says "COMMEMORATION AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY" in white capital letters, followed by "V.C. BUST, MARKET STREET, ST. JOHN'S" and "TUESDAY 9TH, DECEMBER, 2025 | 8:00 AM" in white capital letters. The background is a gradient of red and orange with a subtle pattern of the national flag's colors.

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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Antigua and Barbuda Unveils Culinary Month 2026 at Exclusive U.S. Media Preview

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) recently hosted an exclusive media preview to celebrate the official launch of Culinary Month 2026 at the prestigious Platform by the James Beard Foundation at Pier 57 in Manhattan.

The intimate dinner brought together top-tier U.S. media, culinary influencers, and industry tastemakers for an immersive introduction to the flavours, talent, and creative spirit that define Antigua and Barbuda's culinary identity.

The evening showcased a curated multi-course dining experience led by three of Antigua and Barbuda's leading culinary talents: Chef Claude Lewis (Antiguan-American restaurateur, Food Network Chopped Champion), Chef Kareem Roberts (Award-winning British Antiguan chef and author of *Islands in the Sun*), and Chef Maurine Bowers (Executive Chef at Moon Gate Antigua). They were joined by special guest Chef Devan Rajkumar, the Guyanese-Trinidadian celebrity chef and culinary ambassador known for his bold Caribbean cooking.

Giving guests a preview of what's to come for Culinary Month 2026, attendees enjoyed a refined culinary journey showcasing Antigua and Barbuda's traditional flavours reimaged with



Chef Devan Rajkumar, Chef Kareem Roberts, Chef Claude Lewis, and Chef Maurine Bowers at the official launch of Antigua & Barbuda's Culinary Month 2026 at the prestigious Platform by the James Beard Foundation at Pier 57 in Manhattan.

Credit: Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority

modern technique. The evening began with canapés including Chef Claude Lewis's Salt Fish Croquette, Chef Kareem Roberts's Curried Chicken Tartlet, and a bright Shrimp and Red Snapper bite with passion fruit and fried plantain. The tasting menu continued with Chef Lewis's elevated Fungee and Pepperpot Pie, Chef Roberts's Steamed Grouper with green papaya mash and plantain choka, and Chef Devan Rajkumar's decadent Scallop and Oxtail Risotto, culminating in Chef Maurine Bowers's Rum-Soaked Banana Sponge Cake with nutmeg cream. The evening menu also featured a curated selection of wine pairings by Jason White.

The menu was complemented by two bespoke creations from mixologist Ralph John Emmerson: *Footprints in the Sand*, a rum-forward cocktail featuring 5-Year-Old English Harbour Rum with pineapple, black currant, lime, and habanero; and *Sun Is Shining*, a refreshing non-alcoholic blend of pineapple, sorrel, ginger beer, and lime - each crafted to reflect the warmth and vibrancy of the islands.

In attendance from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority were Colin C. James, Chief Executive Officer; Dean Fenton, Director of Tourism, USA and Arah Robins, U.S. Marketing Communications

Executive. Also present were Shermain Jeremy, Special Projects and Events Manager and Culinary Month Lead; Devin Joseph, Yachting Consultant, and His Excellency Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations. Their presence underscored the destination's continued investment in elevating Antigua and Barbuda's culinary storytelling on the global stage.

Culinary Month 2026 (May 1–31) promises to be Antigua and Barbuda's most dynamic and immersive celebration yet inviting food lovers to experience the islands through flavour,

Local News

PAGE 11

culture, and creativity.

The month kicks off with Restaurant Week (May 4 - 17), offering prix fixe menus from restaurants around Antigua and Barbuda and spotlighting the destination's diverse and evolving culinary landscape. Throughout May, visitors can explore authentic local cuisine through the beloved Eat Like A Local map, which serves as the ultimate guide to experiencing the island's food culture.

The month-long celebration features an elevated schedule of signature dining events with visiting guest chefs of Caribbean heritage from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, who collaborate with local chefs and restaurants to create unforgettable culinary experiences across the islands.

Industry leaders and culinary professionals will gather on May 21 for the Caribbean Food Forum, a forward-looking symposium dedicated to strengthening the region's food and hospitality sector. Creativity takes center stage on May 23 during the FAB (Food, Art & Beverage) Festival, a multidisciplinary showcase where gastronomy meets music, art, and culture.

In addition to the media preview, the ABTA hosted a private media preview and public dinner on November 12, 2025, at the Platform by the James Beard Foundation

at Pier 57. Guests were invited to discover "Culinary Traditions Reimagined" during a one-night-only immersive dining experience led by Antiguan-based chefs celebrating the destination's African, Indigenous, and European culinary influences. The evening featured a cocktail reception, multi-course

dinner, wine pairings, and an engaging Q&A with the chefs, offering attendees a deeper look into the artistry and cultural heritage behind Antigua and Barbuda's cuisine.

"Culinary Month gives us an opportunity to share the heart and soul of Antigua and Barbuda, our

food, our heritage, and our extraordinary chefs," said Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "Launching our 2026 program at the James Beard Foundation reinforces our mission to position Antigua and Barbuda at the forefront of Caribbean culinary tourism."



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November 20th, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Unauthorized Use of ABIA Logo

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ABIA categorically states that we are **not involved in, affiliated with, or endorsing any such promotion**. The unauthorized use of the Authority's name, logo, and branding to solicit funds or represent investment-related activities constitutes a serious misrepresentation and poses a potential risk to members of the public.

We strongly advise all citizens to exercise caution and verify the legitimacy of any investment initiative claiming to be connected to ABIA. All official programs, announcements, and opportunities are communicated directly through ABIA's verified channels.

To the individual or individuals responsible for this unauthorized activity:

You are hereby instructed to immediately cease and desist from using ABIA's name, branding, likeness, or any related material for promotional, financial, or representational purposes. Failure to comply will result in the Authority taking all necessary legal action to protect the integrity of our institution and the public interest.

ABIA remains committed to transparency, accountability, and protecting the public from fraudulent or misleading activities.

For verification or further information, please contact the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority through our official office channels.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES REMINDS EVERYONE THAT THE
CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025 REGISTRATION IS
STILL ONGOING.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 17th November 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*

The Department of Creative Industries is reminding the public that registration for the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025 is still ongoing.

The competition aims to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative, dazzling lighting displays of our 2025 competitors. The Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition by Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs in INET, or at the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th, 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service from December 15th, 2025, to January 15th, 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and/or Decorations, and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone, as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, DutyFree concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

Commentary



RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

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Stronger Than the Storm — The Caribbean Will Rise

Week 6 of the Declaration Series

How many storms must shake our shore,
Before we say, no more, no more?
How many roofs must lift and fly,
Before we choose to fortify?

Climate threats grow day by day.
The youth demand a sturdy plan,
Where every home and town can stand.

“Governments should undertake a whole-of-society approach to building resilient cities.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

Stronger codes and safer land,
No houses built on sinking sand.
Red-line zones and storm-proof ways,
Infrastructure that truly stays.

SDG 11, calling clear,
“Resilient cities, far and near.”
If storms increase, then so must we,
With smarter urban strategy.

Droughts grow longer, rivers shrink,
The future comes faster than we think.
The youth call loud: protect each drop,
From mountain springs to every crop.

“Mobilize resources to build adequate water storage infrastructure.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

Solar pumps and rain that’s caught,
Harvesting each precious spot.
Integrated water plans,
To strengthen farms across the lands.

SDG 6, pure and true —
“Clean water, sanitation too.”
A thirsty land cannot survive,
Without the means to stay alive.

From plantain rows to yams and peas,
Our food must stand the changing breeze.
Smart agriculture is the key,
To nourish both the land and we.



In Kingston’s hall, youth stood as one,
Declaring, “Now, the work’s begun.”

“We can no longer wait on the international community to offer limited or inadequate resources.” — Caribbean Youth Declaration

So chapter six becomes our guide,
For building strength on every side.
Adaptation, resilience, and might —
A Caribbean ready to stand upright.

From Roseau’s hills to Parham’s bay,

Commentary

“Champion food sovereignty by supporting the people’s right to define their own food systems.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

Agro-voltaics, solar lines,
Sustainable farms where sun still shines.
Biodiversity kept intact,
Communities fed with farming fact.
The FAO reminds the land:

“Climate-smart practices must expand.”
SDG 2, the hunger fight —
Grow food with care, with soil, with right.
Mangroves guard the shifting tide,

Forests hold the hills with pride.
Wetlands breathe, reefs defend —
Nature is our oldest friend.
“Pursue reforestation, restore coral reefs,
and rehabilitate wetlands.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

Plant the trees and heal the shore,
Let ecosystems work once more.
Nature’s shields, both wild and free,
Are priceless gifts of clarity.

SDG 14 and SDG 15 say:
“Protect the earth in every way.”
Adaptation starts with land —
Let nature lend its helping hand.

What good is vision if funds don’t come?
If grants fall slow and storms strike numb?
The youth insist the time is now:
Financing must meet the vow.

“SIDS should focus on grant-based funding that does not add reporting burdens.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

No more loans that sink our states,
No debt that grows while climate waits.
The UNFCCC has long advised:
Funding must meet those sacrificed.

Strengthen agencies, open doors,
To Green Climate Funds and more.
A future built on sturdy ground,
Where climate justice is profound.

In global halls where deals are made,
Caribbean voices must not fade.
Youth declare with rightful claim,
That CBDR must remain.

“Policies must promote synergies between National Adaptation Plans and NDCs.” — CYCC Youth Declaration

Small islands stand with heavy load,
Though least responsible on this road.
So unity must guide our stand,
Across each sea, across each land.

SDG 13 shouts loud and strong:
“Take urgent action — right the wrong.”
Adaptation is our shared demand,
A climate-resilient Caribbean.

From hurricanes to heatwave burn,
We face a future of concern.
But youth remind us: all’s not lost,
If courage outweighs climate cost.



The UN Secretary-General warns:
“The era of global boiling has arrived,
but the crisis is still solvable if we act together.” —
António Guterres

Together — that’s the golden key.
From Antigua’s shores to Haiti’s sea.
Adaptation built on truth, not talk,
On steady hands, not empty chalk.

This chapter ends our six-week run,
A journey bold, a battle won.
But the mission now is just begun —
Resilience rising with the sun.

Stay tuned to Climate Conscious here,
Where youth shape futures loud and clear.
From dream to deed, from storm to calm,
The Caribbean stands bright and strong.

Regional News

Canada backs Agrihub program to promote Women's role in sustainable Agriculture in Dominica

H.E. Brenda Wills, the High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, recently paid a visit to the community of Castle Bruce to meet Ms. Tamisha Darroux, an emerging farmer involved in Agrihub's SheHarvest: Gender-Sensitive Business Strategies for Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative. An Agrihub press release outlined that this initiative, focused on gender-sensitive business strategies for climate-smart agriculture, is part of the High Commission's ongoing efforts to engage with Dominica through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The CFLI "supports community-led projects advancing women's economic rights and leadership, entrepreneurship, inclusive governance, peace and security, environment and climate change and resilience."

During the field visit, High Commissioner Wills, accompanied by Political Counsellor Ms. Stephanie Sprott, had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Darroux at her farm. According to the report, the discussion centered on her journey as a newcomer to agriculture and the assistance she has received through the SheHarvest program. This project provides 30 women farmers across Dominica with gender-responsive



business planning, financial literacy, and practical training in climate-smart farming techniques. Out of this group, six women—including Ms. Darroux—are actively applying their business plans in a 12-week pilot phase, utilizing tools and methods aimed at boosting productivity, resilience, and income.

"Empowering women farmers is a key component to building resilience and strengthening food security in the region," said High Commissioner Wills. "Through initiatives like SheHarvest, women are improving their livelihoods and also opening new op-

portunities for trade, innovation, and sustainable growth within the agricultural sector."

Having started her farming journey just a year ago, Ms. Darroux represents a new wave of women adopting innovative and climate-conscious practices to bolster Dominica's food systems and rural economy.

Ms. Abigail Shillingford, Executive Director of Agrihub, praised the resilience and ambition of women like Ms. Darroux who are transforming the future of agriculture in Dominica.

"Tamisha's story reflects the resilience and determi-

nation of Dominican women in agriculture," she said. "Through SheHarvest, we are helping women farmers view agriculture not just as a means of survival, but as a pathway to sustainable business and leadership in the sector."

According to the release, this visit highlighted Canada's continued partnership with Dominica in fostering locally driven initiatives that empower women, promote inclusive economic development, and enhance resilience against climate change impacts. (Dominica News Online)

OECS Commission joins Brenda Stafford Foundation to launch regional eye health initiative

On October 23, 2025, during the 11th Council of Ministers: Health meeting, the OECS Commission, in partnership with the Brenda Stafford Foundation (BSF), officially launched the Regional Eye Health Strategic Plan Initiative.

The event was sponsored by the BSF and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, reported the OECS via press release.

According to the release, this project was conceived in response to the directive from OECS Heads of Government to establish Centers of Excellence in healthcare—an essential strategy aimed at overcoming resource limitations, improving access, and promoting fairness across member nations. The initiative involves a thorough assessment conducted by the OECS Commission, with assistance from the BSF, to identify current eye care needs and evaluate existing capacities within the region.

The principal aim of the Regional Eye Health Strategic Plan is to formulate a comprehensive, evidence-based strategy that aligns with both regional and national health priorities. The framework for this strategy draws inspiration from the World Health Organization's "Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for Action." By collecting detailed epidemiological data, the project will identify the most common eye conditions, vulnerable populations, and priority areas for intervention. The OECS said that this data-centric approach is designed to enhance the precision and impact of health initiatives across the Caribbean, ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed and health outcomes are improved region-wide.

Reportedly, Honourable Philip Telesford, Grenada's Minister of Health and the incoming Chair of the OECS PPS Board and Council of Ministers, officially endorsed the project. He described the strategic plan as a "blue-



print for action," emphasizing its role in fostering equity within health services. Minister Telesford underscored the importance of shifting from fragmented, disparate services towards a unified, patient-centered approach—one that guarantees accessible, respectful, and sustainable eye care for all.

OECS quotes Mrs. Sisera Simon, Head of the Human and Social Division at the OECS Commission, as highlighting the significance of the initiative in strengthening regional health resilience over the long term. She stated: "This strategy will serve as a clear roadmap, outlining key priorities, establishing measurable goals, and providing a common framework for action."

She also linked the project to the broader themes of the 11th Council of Ministers of Health meeting, which focused on "Healthcare Prioritization: Strategies for Sustainable Solutions." Mrs. Simon noted that the initiative embodies a structured, results-driven approach aimed at significantly improving eye health outcomes across the OECS.

Mr. Tony Weeks, President and CEO of the Brenda Stafford Foundation,

reaffirmed his organization's dedication to promoting equitable access to quality healthcare throughout the region. He remarked:

"This milestone demonstrates what strong collaboration can achieve." He further explained that the partnership between the OECS and BS "builds on more than four decades of shared commitment to eye health in the Caribbean. Through deep engagement with more than eighty (80) health, education, and government stakeholders, we have heard a clear message: the region is ready, willing, and determined to work together to eliminate preventable blindness."

The OECS Commission stated that this collaboration with the BSF exemplifies its unwavering dedication to advancing regional and global health goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all—and OECS Strategic Priority 5: promoting Equity and Inclusion. The initiative's findings and recommendations are scheduled to be presented at the inaugural Global Summit for Eye Health in Antigua and Barbuda in 2026. (Dominica News Online)

Regional News

National Reconstruction and Resilient Authority to be established for Melissa rebuilding and recovery efforts

The Jamaican Government has announced the establishment of a National Reconstruction Resilient Authority (NRRA) to lead the island's rebuilding and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness said the NRRA, which will have special powers to lead, coordinate, fast-track, and oversee national reconstruction, will report directly to the Office of the Prime Minister.

"The NRRA will focus on building back better; safer homes, climate-resilient infrastructure, better land use planning, relocation from high-risk zones, and taking the opportunity to introduce new industries and new businesses to areas that previously had no economic base," he said.

He said the NRRA will be established under spe-

cial-purpose legislation.

"Given the extraordinary powers that will be sought to expedite reconstruction, the NRRA will be set up with a sunset date of five years, renewable by Parliament," he said.

Holness said the Authority's expenditure will be financed from the budget; however, recovery and reconstruction activities will be financed initially from the National Natural Disaster Recovery Fund, which currently has about US\$650 million.

The Prime Minister said it is "likely" that the Government will have to borrow to finance reconstruction beyond this amount, noting that it has immediate access to approximately US\$500 million from the International Monetary Fund's rapid financing facility, which does not come with policy conditions.

Holness, in the meantime, said a high-level public advisory board will be formed and will include elder statesmen, persons from civil society, technical experts, and multilateral and overseas partners.

"It will be a multi-stakeholder board that will ensure that we're making the right decisions, that there's transparency and accountability. But more important, in the info-disaster that is going on, we will need voices other than the Government to explain some of the decisions that we will have to make, because regardless of what we do and how we feel that we are making the right decision, Jamaica is a democracy and ultimately you want the people to understand what you're doing, appreciate it, and give their support," Holness said.

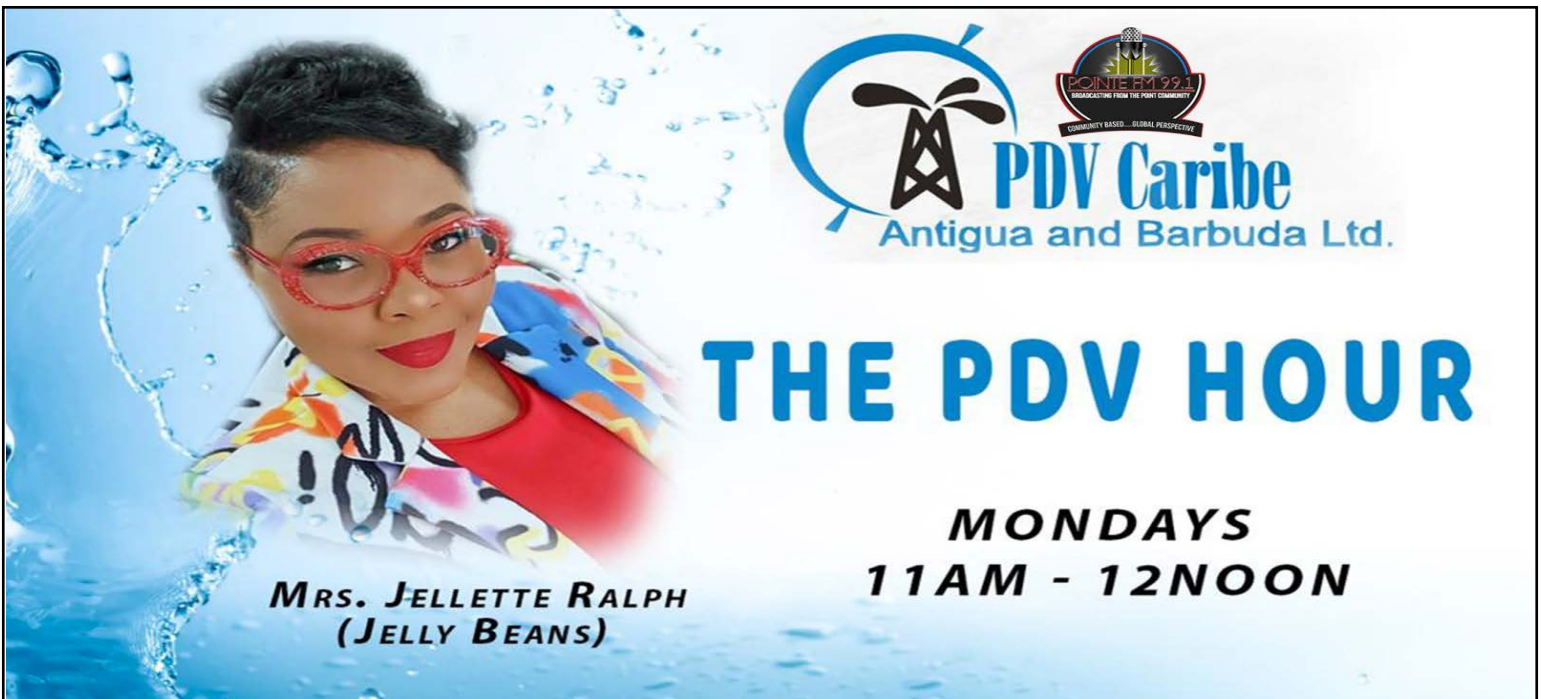
Labelling the NRRA as the blueprint for wider public

sector transformation, Holness said the Authority will be recognised for its efficiency.

"Speed of execution will not mean the absence of accountability. On the contrary, the legislation that gives birth to the NRRA will incorporate transparency and accountability mechanisms that can provide assurances to the public. The NRRA will serve as a proof of concept for a more agile, performance-driven model of public administration."

He further noted that an inter-agency coordinating committee will also be established to ensure that decisions are made swiftly by the heads of executing entities.

He said international engineering, procurement, and construction programme management partners will also be engaged. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Gov't 'likely' to borrow to help with post-Melissa recovery



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness says it is "likely" that the Government will have to borrow to help to finance Jamaica's rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, which devastated the island when it made landfall on October 28.

Holness said the initial rebuilding process will be financed using funds from the National Natural Disaster Recovery Fund (NNDRF), which was created to receive funds from Jamaica's various disaster insurance instruments and contingent facilities, including the

catastrophe bond.

He said those amounts total US\$650 million.

"We have immediate access to approximately, and please note I use the word approximately, US\$500 million from the IMF's (International Monetary Fund's) rapid financing facility...the RFI facility does not come with policy conditionalities," Holness further informed.

He was speaking at a hurricane recovery press conference at Jamaica House on Wednesday.

"So we will start this reconstruction process with approximately US\$1.15 billion in immediate funds. This is significant...under normal circumstances it would take us three fiscal years to spend such funds in capital expenditure" Holness said.

Holness explained that the Government is currently looking at about US\$2.9 billion in damage to public infrastructure, and it will have to shoulder responsibility for other damage, including to some private residences.

"So, we have here a total of US\$1.15 billion. A part of it is the insurance and the contingencies that we have and a part of it is immediately accessible debt, that we could start. But just from this assessment here, which is not the final assessment, there is US\$8.8 billion of damage, for which the Government would more likely be responsible for at least half. So there is still a gap which will have to be funded and that will have to be funded from additional borrowing," Holness outlined.

He underscored that the Government cannot go on a spending spree, but has to "watch every dollar that it spends" given the fiscal demands of the recovery. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Trump signs bill ordering US justice department to release Epstein files

US President Donald Trump says he has approved a bill that orders the release of government files on the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein - a significant turning point in a months-long fight over the documents.

The justice department now has 30 days to publicly share all information from federal investigations into Epstein. However, it can withhold files that relate to active criminal investigations or are deemed to invade personal privacy.

In a major reversal, Trump dropped his opposition to the measure last weekend, after pushback from Epstein's victims and members of his own Republican Party.



With his support, the resolution overwhelmingly cleared both chambers of Congress.

Until recently, Trump had dismissed the need to release the documents, calling it a Democrat-led "hoax" to "deflect" attention away from his party's work. That position was itself a change from the stance he took

ahead of the 2024 election.

"Perhaps the truth about these Democrats, and their associations with Jeffrey Epstein, will soon be revealed, because I HAVE JUST SIGNED THE BILL TO RELEASE THE EPSTEIN FILES!" he wrote.

Although a congressional vote was not required to release the files - Trump could

have ordered the release on his own - lawmakers in the House passed the legislation with a 427-1 vote. The Senate gave unanimous consent to pass it upon its arrival, sending the bill to Trump for his signature.

The lone vote against the resolution in the House, the lower chamber, was cast by Louisiana Republican Clay Higgins, who objected to the scope of information that could be released. He said it could reveal and threaten "thousands of innocent people" who may have talked to investigators about allegations against Epstein.

Under the law now signed by Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi must release the documents within 30 days. (BBC)



HOSTS:

DR, CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

Missouri seeks federal help in pressing China for US\$25 billion in COVID damages



Missouri has escalated its attempt to seize Chinese government-owned property across the United States, asking the Trump administration for help collecting on a roughly \$25 billion court judgment related to the COVID-19 pandemic that Beijing has flatly rejected.

Missouri is asking the US State Department to formally notify China that the state intends to pursue assets with full or partial Chinese government ownership to satisfy the judgment, state Attorney General Catherine Hanaway said Wednesday.

The move stems from a lawsuit alleging China hoarded personal protective equipment during the early months of the pandemic, harming Missouri and

its residents.

A federal judge ruled for Missouri earlier this year after China declined to participate in the trial, calling the lawsuit “very absurd” when it was filed in 2020.

China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said earlier this year that its actions during the pandemic aren’t subject to US jurisdiction and it doesn’t recognize the ruling.

Some legal experts have cast doubt on whether Missouri can collect on the judgment, because federal law generally shields foreign nations from lawsuits in US courts.

Hanaway said she expects a long process.

“We think the state was damaged. We want to recover,” Hanaway said. “It costs money to provide health care and other benefits to people as a result of the epidemic.”

As a first step, Hanaway’s office sent a letter Wednesday to a federal court asking it to forward copies of the judgment to the secretary of state’s office to be served on China.

She said her office is still assembling a list of Chinese properties that could be targeted. She said Missouri is focusing on properties wholly owned by the Chinese government, as well as those owned by companies in which the Chinese government has a stake.

Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement on Wednesday that China’s policies and measures during the pandemic were “acts of national sovereignty and are not subject to the jurisdiction of US courts.”

“The so-called pandemic compensation lawsuits fabricated by certain forces in the US ignore basic objective facts and violate fundamental legal principles; they are purely malicious frivolous lawsuits and political manipulation, with extremely sinister intentions,” Liu said.

“China firmly opposes them and will not accept any so-called default judgments.”

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. (AP)



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🍷 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Ultra-processed food is global health threat, experts warn



Action is needed now to reduce ultra-processed food (UPF) in diets worldwide because of their threat to health, say international experts in a global review of research.

They say the way we eat is changing - with a move away from fresh, whole foods to cheap, highly-processed meals - which is increasing our risk of a range of chronic diseases, including obesity and depression.

Writing in *The Lancet*, the researchers say governments need “to step up” and introduce warnings and higher taxes on UPF products, to help fund access to more nutritious foods.

However some scientists say this review can not prove that UPFs directly cause health harms and more research and trials are needed to show that.

Foods classified in four categories, according to the Nova Classification. They range from, in the left column, minimally processed foods like fruit, vegetables and eggs, to ultra-processed

food in the far right column, such as crisps, fizzy drinks, supermarket bread and ready meals.

Ultra-processed foods are defined as containing more than five ingredients you would not find at home in your kitchen cupboard, such as emulsifiers, preservatives, additives, dyes and sweeteners.

Examples of UPFs include sausages, crisps, pastries, biscuits, instant soups, fizzy drinks, ice cream and supermarket bread.

Surveys indicate these industrially-manufactured foods are on the rise in diets around the world, worsening the quality of what we eat with too much sugar and unhealthy fats and a lack of fibre and protein.

This review of evidence on the impact of UPFs on health, carried out by 43 global experts and based on 104 long-term studies, suggests these foods are linked to a greater risk of 12 health conditions.

These include type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, depression and dying prematurely from any cause.

Review author Prof Carlos Monteiro, from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, who set up the Nova classification system for categorising food, said the growing consumption of ultra-processed foods “is reshaping diets worldwide, displacing fresh and minimally processed foods and meals”.

“This change in what people eat is fuelled by powerful global corporations who generate huge profits by prioritising ultra-processed products, supported by extensive marketing and political lobbying to stop effective public health policies to support healthy eating,” he added.

Co-author Dr Phillip Baker, from the University of Sydney, said the answer was “a strong global public health response - like the coordinated efforts to challenge the tobacco industry”.

The review acknowledges a lack of clinical trials showing exactly how UPFs damage health - but says that should not delay action to protect people worldwide from potential health harms.

Some scientists have commented that it is difficult to untangle the effects of UPFs in people's diets from other factors in people's lives, such as lifestyle, behaviour and wealth.

Critics of the Nova classification system say it relies too much on the level of processing in foods, and not on how nutritious that particular food is. For example, wholegrain bread, breakfast cereals, low-fat yoghurts, baby formula milk and fish fingers all count as ultra-processed but have lots of good in them.

Prof Kevin McConway, emeritus professor of applied statistics at the Open University, said: "A study like this can find a correlation, but it can't be cer-

tain about cause and effect."

He said there was still "room for doubt and for clarification from further research".

"It seems to me likely that at least some UPFs could cause increases in the risk of some chronic diseases. But this certainly doesn't establish that all UPFs increase disease risk."

It is still not clear what it is about ultra-processed foods that could be causing or contributing to diseases.

Prof Jules Griffin, from the University of Aberdeen, said there were some positive sides to food processing, and more research to understand how it influences our health was "urgently needed".

The Food and Drink Federation (FDF), which represents the industry, says UPFs can form part of a balanced diet, like frozen peas and wholemeal bread.

"Companies have been making a se-

ries of changes over many years to make the food and drink we all buy healthier, in line with government guidelines," says Kate Halliwell, chief scientific officer at the FDF.

The amount of sugar and salt in products on sale in shops and supermarkets has gone down by a third since 2015, she added.

The UK's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition said earlier this year that the association between higher consumption of ultra-processed foods and adverse health outcomes was "concerning".

But it added it was "unclear" whether these foods are unhealthy due to processing or because many of them are high in calories, saturated fat, salt and free sugars.

Current UK government advice on diet is to eat more fruit, vegetables and fibre, and cut back on sugar, fat and salt. (BBC)



DAILY PROGRAMMING



EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

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PMS returns to top of Under-16 Boys Division League

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) returned to winning form and the top of the standings in the Under-16 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Caribbean Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Wednesday.

After suffering their first defeat of the season in a 2-1 loss to St. Joseph's Academy in their previous outing, Princess Margaret School notched up their sixth win in seven matches with a 3-1 victory against Antigua Grammar School.

Colin Wright opened the scoring with a strike in the 29th minute, Allan Henry scored in the 45th minute, and Genel Pryce had a 45th-minute conversion for Princess Margaret School.

Ahamani Abrams scored in the 37th minute for the Antigua Grammar School, who remains in third place on 14 points after suffering their first defeat in seven matches.

The result allows Princess Margaret School to jump from second to the top of the Under-16 Boys Division with 18 points, two ahead of the Ottos Comprehensive School, who has a game in hand.



Allan Henry of PMS

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy notched up their fourth win in five matches with a 2-1 victory against St. Joseph's Academy.

Karique Martin had a 15th-minute conversion, and Xaden Cabey scored in the 37th minute for Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Dyair Samuel scored in the 10th minute for St. Jo-

seph's Academy.

The result carries Sir Novelle Richards Academy to 12 points, while St. Joseph's Academy remains on 12 points after slumping to their second loss in six matches.

Meanwhile, Jennings Secondary consolidated their position in third place in the Under-14 Boys Division League. Jennings Secondary claimed their fifth win in eight matches with a 1-0 victory over Pares Secondary at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Zahier Joseph scored the only goal of the match in the eighth minute as Jennings Secondary School advanced to 16 points. Pares Secondary remains on nine points after suffering their fourth defeat in seven matches.

All Saints Secondary and Clare Hall Secondary fought to a goalless draw at the same venue. All Saints Secondary advanced to 10 points after recording their first draw in nine matches.

Clare Hall Secondary moved on to seven points after securing their first draw in seven matches.

HCABSCE joins PMS as leaders of Under-20 Boys Division League

The Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) extended their unbeaten run to become joint leaders of the Under-20 Boys Division during the latest round of matches.

The HCABSCE notched up their fourth win in as many games with a 2-1 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the

Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Xarik Richards scored in the 53rd minute, and Elisha McDonald converted an own goal in the 65th minute to give HCABSCE their latest victory to advance to 12 points, the same as joint leaders and defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS), who have played five matches.

Demarre Swift scored the

first goal of the match in the 15th minute for Ottos Comprehensive School, who remains on seven points after suffering their third loss in six matches.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy and Jennings Secondary fought to a goalless draw in their Under-20 Boys Division match at the same venue.

The result ensured Sir Novelle Richards Acad-

emy advanced to seven points after salvaging their first draw in five matches. Jennings Secondary moved on to four points after securing their first draw in four matches.

However, the latest matches in the Under-20 Girls Division in the Patrick C. Whyte Cup were postponed due to an unplayable pitch at the ABFA Technical Center.

Van Lange comes good as Windies Under-19s edge past England



Players of the West Indies Under-19 cricket team

Jonathan van Lange struck his second consecutive half century to propel West Indies Under-19s to an impressive six-wicket victory over England Under-19s via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method in the second Youth One-Day International on Wednesday.

In a match that was interrupted by rain, England reached 160 for five after 31.4 overs before their innings came to an abrupt end.

Van Lange then hit an unbeaten 57 off 34 balls, as the West Indies, set a revised target of 191 from 31 overs, raced to 192 for four off 30.1 overs.

The result gave the hosts a comfortable 2-0 lead in the seven-match series with the third Youth ODI set for Friday.

England found themselves in early trouble at 16 for three after pacer Ja-keem Pollard truck twice early on by bowling Ben Dawkins for a duck and then having Ben Mayes caught for three.

Joe Moores made 27 and Will Bennison 20, but when they were dismissed in close proximity, England were precariously placed at 70 for five in the 17th over.

They were rescued by captain Farhan Ahmed, who scored an unbeaten 46 and Caleb Falconer, who was 42 not out, as the two shared an unbroken partnership of 90 before the rain came. Pollard finished with two for 20 from his five overs.

In their chase, openers Tyriek Bryan and Earsinho Fontaine gave West

Indies a good start by putting on 84 runs in 17 overs. Jack Nelson broke the partnership by bowling the former for 31 and also ran out Fontaine for 39. When he dismissed skipper Joshua Dorne for nine, the Windies had slipped to 98 for three.

But a 76-run partnership in eight overs between Van Lange and Zachary Carter turned the game in the home side's favour, and set them on their way to victory.

Carter lost his wicket for 26 with 17 runs still required, but Van Lange along with Shaquan Belle got them over the line with five balls to spare. Van Lange hit five sixes and three fours in his knock.

Roach returns to West Indies squad for Test series in New Zealand

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies 15-member squad for the three-Test series against New Zealand in Christchurch, Wellington, and Mount Maunganui from December 1 to 21.

With Shamar Joseph and Alzarri Joseph both rehabilitating from injuries sustained earlier this year, and therefore forced to miss this series, veteran fast bowler Kumar Roach has been recalled, bolstering an inexperienced fast-bowling unit featuring maiden call-up, Ojay Shields.

Shields and Roach were among several players to have recently completed a rigorous two-week high-performance camp in Antigua, in preparation for the highly anticipated series where playing surfaces are expected to be conducive to pace-bowling.

Kavem Hodge makes his return to the regional squad on the back of his previous success against pace, while Khary Pierre has been excluded with spin-bowling not expected to have a major impact over the three-match series.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, spoke to focused preparation for the tour and the intentional efforts to ensure that this squad is one of the best-prepared groups for an away tour to New Zealand.



Fast bowler Kumar Roach

“New Zealand has traditionally been one of the toughest places for any touring side, which is why strong emphasis has been placed on targeted preparation.

“The recent high-performance camp here in Antigua was designed to replicate, as closely as possible, the conditions we expect to face, particularly the pace-friendly surfaces.

“That level of intentional preparation, combined with the advantage of several squad members already in New Zealand for the white-ball portion of the tour gaining valuable time to acclimate, means this group goes into this series as well-prepared as any West Indies squad to

tour there in recent years.”

Those traveling from the Caribbean joined the rest of the squad already in New Zealand on Thursday, November 20, giving them considerable time to become acclimatised and take part in a two-day warm-up match against a New Zealand XI in Lincoln, Christchurch.

The series forms part of the 2025 to 2027 ICC World Test Championship and will be the West Indies' final fixture for this year.

West Indies Test Squad to New Zealand: Roston Chase (captain), Jomel Warrican (vice-captain), Alick Athanaze, John Campbell, Tagnarine Chanderpaul, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge,

Shai Hope, Tevin Imlach, Brandon King, Johann Layne, Anderson Phillip, Kumar Roach, Jayden Seales, and Ojay Shields.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach Daren Sammy; Manager Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coach (batting) Floyd Reifer; Assistant Coach (bowling) Ravi Rampaul; Assistant Coach (fielding) Rayon Griffith; Physiotherapist Dr. Denis Byam; Mental Skills/Performance Coach Krisnan Hurdle; Strength & Conditioning Coach Darc Browne; Massage Therapist Fitzbert Alleyne; Performance Analyst Avenesh Seetaram; and Content & Media Officer Jerome Foster.

Leewards lose opening match in regional Super50 Cup

The Leeward Islands Hurricane crashed to a disappointing two-wicket loss to the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their opening-round match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) CG United Super50 Cup at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday.

Set 325 to win, aided by poor bowling and fielding in which several catches were dropped by the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands Volcanoes achieved their victory target for the loss of eight wickets with 6.1 overs to spare.

The Windwards, who were able to stay ahead of the required scoring rate throughout their innings, were led by half centuries from all-rounder Darron Nedd and wicketkeeper/batsman Dillon Douglas.

Nedd slammed 94 off 56 balls, including eight fours and six sixes. Nedd shared a crucial 107-run sixth-wicket partnership with Douglas, who struck 61 off 46 balls, including six fours and three sixes.

Opener Stephen Pascal contributed 40 off 43 balls, captain Teddy Bishop gave support with 32 off 38 balls, and Sunil Ambris chipped in with 25 off 27 balls.



The Windward Islands Volcanoes team

Fast bowler Oshane Thomas captured three for 63, and captain Karima Gore, who was the most economical bowler for the Leewards, picked up two for 41 in his 10 overs of slow left-arm spin.

Off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall had a rare off day, conceding 80 runs in eight overs, while young leg-spinner Micah McKenzie was taken for 43 runs in just 2.5 overs.

Earlier, opener Kofi James achieved his maiden regional one-day century to guide the Leeward Islands to 324 all out in 47.3 overs after being sent in to bat.

James, who slammed 103 off 87 balls, including nine fours and five sixes, shared two crucial partnerships at the top of the order to give the Leewards a great platform for a much bigger total.

James added 125 for the first wicket with fellow opener Mikyle Louis, who struck 59 off 46 balls, including six fours and four sixes.

James also shared an 81-run second-wicket stand with wicketkeeper/batsman and vice-captain Carlton Bowen-Tuckett, who cracked 56 off 44 balls.

However, the Leewards failed to fully capitalize on their solid start to their innings, losing their last eight wickets for just 118 runs, in which Jewel Andrew made 31 off 32 balls and Jahmar Hamilton chipped in with 23 off 29 balls.

Medium pacer Shadrack Descarte claimed three for 43, fellow seamer Darron Nedd captured three for 53, and off-spinner Kenneth Dember picked up three for 56.

Meanwhile, the other two

first-round matches of this year's CG United Super50 Cup ended in no-results after heavy showers forced play to be abandoned in Trinidad on Wednesday.

Over at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground at the University of the West Indies Sport and Physical Education (UWISPEC) in St. Augustine, only 5.1 overs were possible before rain brought a premature end to the match between Barbados Pride and Trinidad and Tobago Red Force, with Barbados on 48 without loss.

Captain Kyle Mayers was unbeaten on 24, while Leniko Boucher finished on 21 not out.

At the Queen's Park Oval, the Guyana Harpy Eagles were on their way to posting a formidable score against the Jamaica Scorpions before showers brought an end to the contest.

The Harpy Eagles were coasting at 287 for six after 47 overs, thanks to half centuries from Kevlon Anderson, who made 83, and Raymond Perez, who scored 61, while Matthew Nandu scored 54.

Brad Barnes (2-45) and Marquino Mindley (2-51) were the best bowlers for the Red Force.